

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims: 2-3 and 12-15.

Rewrite the pending claims and add new claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gas delivery metering tube for delivering a gas, comprising:

an elongated outer tube having an inlet end and a closed end, and one or more arrays of outer orifices formed in said outer tube and extending along ~~[[the]]~~ a substantial length of a surface of said outer tube;

an elongated inner tube having open inlet and outlet ends, said inner tube being nested and axially aligned inside of said outer tube forming an effective annular space there between, and wherein said inner tube extends ~~[[a distance]]~~ at least ~~[[encompassing]]~~ along the arrays of outer orifices in the outer tube and said outlet end of said inner tube terminates prior to the closed end of said outer tube; and

a gas flow divider positioned adjacent the inlet ends of the inner and outer tubes ~~[[and having]]~~ , said divider configured to introduce a first gas flow path ~~[[coupled to]]~~ into the inlet of said inner tube and a second gas flow path ~~[[coupled to]]~~ into the annular space between the inner and outer tubes, the gas flow divider comprising a disk having a central orifice forming said first gas flow path and a flange positioned on the inlet end of the inner tube and the flange having a lip with a plurality of small orifices forming said second gas flow path,

the gas flow divider configured to divide gas from a single gas supply port coupled to one end of the gas delivery metering tube into said first gas flow path into the inner tube and said second gas flow path into the annular space, wherein gas in said first gas flow path travels out of the outlet end of the inner tube ~~[[and flows toward]]~~ adjacent the closed end of the outer tube and back into the annular space~~[[;]]~~ and ~~[[wherein]]~~ the array of outer orifices in said outer tube are configured to establish uniform backing pressure within the annular space and to provide uniform gas flow along the length of the outer tube.

Claims 2-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The gas delivery metering tube of claim 1 wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a cross sectional area of ~~[[the]]~~ an inside of said inner tube is approximately equal to ~~[[the]]~~ a total cross sectional area of said plurality of small orifices in said flow divider.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The gas delivery metering tube of claim 1 further comprising a single gas supply port coupled to[[]] the inlet end of said inner and outer tube for supplying gas to said metering tube.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The gas delivery metering tube of claim 5 wherein said gas supply port comprises a block having a pocket formed therein, said pocket being sealed with a cover to create a confined passage, and a gas supply connector coupled to said pocket for receiving a gas, and a hollow tube assembly coupled to said pocket and said inlet end of the inner and outer tubes for conveying the gas.

Claim 7 (original): The gas metering tube of claim 1 wherein one or more standoff spacers are attached to said inner tube to axially align the inner tube inside said outer tube.

Claim 8 (original): The gas delivery metering tube of claim 1 wherein said metering tube is used in a chemical vapor deposition system.

Claim 9 (original): In combination, the gas delivery metering tube of claim 1 and at least one injector assembly having at least one port for receiving said gas delivery metering tube.

Claim 10 (original): In combination, the gas delivery metering tube of claim 1 and at least one shield assembly having at least one plenum for receiving said gas delivery metering tube.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A gas delivery metering tube for delivering a gas, comprising:

an elongated outer tube having an inlet end and a closed end, and one or more arrays of outer orifices formed in said outer tube and extending along ~~[[the]]~~ a substantial length of a surface of said outer tube;

an elongated inner tube having open inlet and outlet ends, said inner tube being nested and axially aligned inside of said outer tube forming an effective annular space there between, and wherein said inner tube extends ~~[[a distance]]~~ at least ~~[[encompassing]]~~ along the arrays of outer orifices in the outer tube and said outlet end of said inner tube terminates prior to the closed end of said outer tube;

a gas flow divider positioned adjacent the inlet ends of the inner and outer tubes ~~[[and having]]~~, said divider configured to introduce a first gas flow path ~~[[coupled to]]~~ into the inlet of said inner tube and a second gas flow path ~~[[coupled to]]~~ into the annular space between the inner and outer tubes, the gas flow divider comprises a disk having a central orifice forming said first gas flow path and a plurality of small orifices forming said second gas flow path, and the gas flow divider comprises a flange on the inlet end of said inner tube, said flange having a lip containing the plurality of small orifices which form the second gas flow path, wherein the gas flow divider divides a gas into a first gas flow into the inner tube and a second gas flow into the annular space, said first gas flow travels out of the outlet end of the inner tube ~~[[towards]]~~ adjacent the closed end of the outer tube and back into the annular space; and

a single gas supply port coupled to ~~[[the inlet end of said inner and outer tube]]~~ an inlet end of said divider for supplying gas to said metering tube, wherein said gas flow divider conveys gas to ~~[[opposite ends of said metering]]~~ the inlet end of said outer tube and is in fluid communication with an opposite end of said outer tube through said inner tube while said single gas supply port is connected directly to only one end of the metering tube, said gas supply port comprises a block having a pocket formed therein, said pocket being sealed with a cover to create a confined passage, and a gas supply connector coupled to said pocket for receiving a gas, and a hollow tube assembly coupled to said pocket and said inlet ~~[[end]]~~ ends of the inner and outer tubes for conveying the gas.

Claims 12-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (New): A gas delivery metering tube for delivering a gas, comprising:
an elongated outer tube having an inlet end and a closed end, and one or more arrays of orifices formed in said outer tube extending along a substantial length of said outer tube;
an inner tube having open inlet and outlet ends and an inner array of orifices, said inner tube being nested and axially aligned inside of said outer tube forming an effective annular space there between, and wherein said outlet end of said inner tube terminates prior to the closed end of said outer tube; and

a gas flow divider positioned adjacent the inlet ends of the inner and outer tubes, said divider configured to introduce a first gas flow path into the inlet of said inner tube and a second gas flow path into the annular space between the inner and outer tubes, the gas flow divider configured to divide gas from a single gas supply port coupled to one end of the gas delivery metering tube into said first gas flow path and said second gas flow path, wherein

gas in said first gas flow path travels out of the outlet end of the inner tube adjacent the closed end of the outer tube and back into the annular space,

wherein the inner array orifices are aligned substantially 180° from the outer array of orifices to establish uniform backing pressure within the annular space and to provide uniform gas flow along the length of the outer tube.

Claim 17 (new): The gas metering tube of claim 16 wherein a length of the outer tube is substantially greater than a diameter of the outer tube.